

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) An implant for use inside a human body, comprising:

a biocompatible self-supporting base material having at least one surfaces exposed to aggressive body cells, when the implant is implanted in the human body, and

a cell barrier coating coated on said at least one surfaces to prevent body cells from breaking down said base material, and

property improving means for improving at least one physical property of the implant, other than self-supporting and cell barrier properties,

wherein the property improving means comprises a core of viscoelastic material covered with the self-supporting base material, the base material comprises silicone, and the barrier coating comprises a poly-para-xylylene polymer or a biocompatible metal coating.

20. (Cancelled) An implant according to claim 19, wherein said barrier coating comprises a poly-para-xylylene polymer or a biocompatible metal coating.

21. (Cancelled) An implant according to claim 19, further comprising a

property improving means for improving at least one physical property of the implant other than self-supporting and cell barrier properties.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) An The implant according to claim 2219, wherein said viscoelastic material comprises silicone gel, cellulose gel or collagen gel.

25. (Currently Amended) An The implant according to claim 2419, wherein said base material forms an inflatable tubing.

26. (Currently Amended) An The implant according to claim 25, wherein said tubing has further comprises an inner surface defining the interior of said tubing, and said coating covers said inner surface.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) An The implant according to claim 25, wherein said base material forms two coaxial tubular layers and said property improving

means comprises a tubular intermediate layer of a viscoelastic material located between said coaxial tubular layers.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 25, wherein said base material forms an outer tubular layer, and an inner arcuate layer attached to said outer tubular layer, said outer and inner layers defining a curved space extending longitudinally along said tubing, and said property improving means comprises viscoelastic material filling said space.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 31, wherein said viscoelastic material comprises silicone gel, cellulose gel or collagen gel.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 24 19, wherein said base material forms a first layer and said property improving means comprises a second layer applied on said first layer, said second layer being more fatigue resistant than said first layer.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 33, wherein said second layer comprises a polyurethane layer.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 33, wherein said coating comprises a poly-para-xylylene polymer or a biocompatible metal coating.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 33, wherein said base material comprises silicone.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 33, wherein said first layer of said base material forms an inflatable tubing, and said second layer covers said base material ~~within said tubing without and within~~.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 24 19, wherein said property improving means comprises gas contained in a multiplicity of cavities formed in said base material to improve the flexibility of said base material.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 38, wherein said cavities are defined by net structures of said base material.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 38, wherein said base material comprises poly[-](tetrafluoroethylene) ("PTFE").

41. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 38, wherein said base material forms an inflatable tubing.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to claim 19, wherein said base material comprises silicone.

43. (New) The implant according to claim 19, wherein the biocompatible metal coating is comprised of gold, silver or titanium.

44. (New) An implant for use inside a human body, comprising:
a biocompatible self-supporting base material having at least one surface exposed to aggressive body cells, when the implant is implanted in the human body,

a cell barrier coating coated on the at least one surface to prevent body cells from breaking down said base material, and

property improving means for improving at least one physical property of the implant, other than self-supporting and cell barrier properties,

wherein the property improving means is comprised of a core of viscoelastic material covered with said self-supporting base material, the base material is comprised of silicone, and the barrier coating is comprise of a poly-para-xylylene polymer or a biocompatible metal coating, and

wherein the base material forms an inflatable tubing.

45. (New) The implant according to claim 44, wherein the tubing has an inner surface defining the interior of the tubing, and the coating covers the inner surface.

46. (New) The implant according to claim 44, wherein the base material forms two coaxial tubular layers and the property improving means comprises a

tubular intermediate layer of a viscoelastic material located between the coaxial tubular layers.

47. (New) The implant according to claim 44, wherein the viscoelastic material is comprised of silicone gel, cellulose gel or collagen gel.

48. (New) The implant according to claim 44, wherein the base material forms an outer tubular layer and an inner arcuate layer attached to the outer tubular layer, the outer and inner layers defining a curved space extending longitudinally along the tubing, and the property improving means comprises viscoelastic material filling the space.

49. (New) The implant according to claim 48, wherein the viscoelastic material is comprised of silicone gel, cellulose gel or collagen gel.

50. (New) The implant according to claim 44, wherein the biocompatible metal coating is comprised of gold, silver or titanium.

51. (New) An implant for use inside a human body, comprising:
a biocompatible self-supporting base material having at least one surface exposed to aggressive body cells, when the implant is implanted in the human body,
a cell barrier coating coated on said at least one surface to prevent body

cells from breaking down the base material, and

property improving means for improving at least one physical property of the implant other than self-supporting and cell barrier properties,

wherein the base material forms a first layer and the property improving means comprises a second layer applied on the first layer, the second layer being more fatigue resistant than the first layer, and

wherein the base material is comprised of silicone, the property improving means is comprised of a polyurethane layer, and the barrier coating is comprised of a poly-para-xylylene polymer or a biocompatible metal coating.

52. (New) The implant according to claim 51, wherein the first layer of the base material forms an inflatable tubing, and the second layer covers the base material within the tubing.

53. (New) The implant according to claim 51, wherein said property improving means comprises a core of a viscoelastic material covered with said self-supporting base material.

54. (New) The implant according to claim 53, wherein said base material comprises silicone.

55. (New) The implant according to claim 53, wherein said viscoelastic material comprises silicone gel, cellulose gel or collagen gel.

56. (New) The implant according to claim 51, wherein said base material forms an inflatable tubing.

57. (New) The implant according to claim 56, wherein said tubing has an inner surface defining the interior of said tubing, and said coating covers said inner surface.

58. (New) The implant according to claim 51, wherein said base material forms two coaxial tubular layers and said property improving means comprises a tubular intermediate layer of a viscoelastic material located between said coaxial tubular layers.

59. (New) The implant according to claim 58, wherein said viscoelastic material comprises silicone gel, cellulose gel or collagen gel.

60. (New) The implant according to claim 56, wherein said base material forms an outer tubular layer and an inner arcuate layer attached to said outer tubular layer, said outer and inner layers defining a curved space extending longitudinally along said tubing, and said property improving means comprising viscoelastic material filling said space.

61. (New) The implant according to claim 60, wherein said viscoelastic material comprises silicone gel, cellulose gel or collagen gel.

62. (New) The implant according to claim 51, wherein the base material

forms an inflatable tubing.

63. (New) An implant according to claim 62, wherein the tubing has an inner surface defining the interior of the tubing, and the coating covers the inner surface.

64. (New) The implant according to claim 62, wherein said base material comprises silicone.

65. (Previously Presented) An implant according to claim 62, wherein said first layer of said base material forms an inflatable tubing, and said second layer covers said base material within said tubing.

66. (New) The implant according to claim 51, wherein said property improving means comprises gas contained in a multiplicity of cavities formed in said base material to improve the flexibility of said base material.

67. (New) The implant according to claim 66, wherein said cavities are defined by net structures of said base material.

68. (New) The implant according to claim 66, wherein said base material comprises poly-tetrafluoroethylene ("PTFE").

69. (New) The implant according to claim 66, wherein said base material

forms an inflatable tubing.

70. (New) The implant according to claim 51, wherein said base material comprises silicone.

71. (New) The implant according to claim 51, wherein the biocompatible metal coating is gold, silver or titanium.